

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert new paragraph [0033.1] between original paragraphs [0033] and [0034]:*

[0033.1] The embodiment of Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, and 4A also disclose a novel, ergonomically friendly, and efficiently assembled arrangement for a hand portable air compressor, wherein all the major components of said air compressor assembly 100 are enclosed within a shroud (with the exception of some projecting indications and controls) and thus protected from the environment and protected from injury by or to the user of such air compressor assembly. As shown in Fig. 3, shroud 108 is a clamshell type housing divided along a substantially vertical plane into front shell portion 201 and rear shell portion 202, although other possible arrangements are contemplated to be within the scope of the invention. Front shell portion 201 and rear shell portion 202 define and meet along a joint 203. Handle 118 may be formed from a portion of the shroud 108. In Fig. 4, handle 118 is shown as formed from a portion of rear shell portion 202. Control panel 120 may be formed from a portion of the shroud 108. In Figs 1-3, control panel 120 is shown as formed from a portion 206 of front shell portion 201. Shroud 108 may include a supporting base portion 208 that may be formed from the shell portions 201 and 202. The interior 220 of the clamshell portions may include various supporting members 204 shaped and arranged to locate and support the components of the air compressor assembly (for example, and without limitation, the tank 102, the air compressor piston(s) 112, and/or the motor 114) within the shroud 108. In the particular embodiment of Fig. 4, the air tank 102 and air compressor 110 are supported in the shroud 108 in side by side vertical orientation, but other possible arrangements of the compressor assembly subcomponents within the shroud are contemplated to be within the scope of the invention. Front shell portion 201 and rear shell portion 202 are fastened together by a plurality of screws (not shown) inserted through screw holes 211 into screw bosses 210 located at various places on the interior of the housing portions. The shroud 108 also includes ventilation openings 215 located so as to allow cooling air entry into and exit from the interior 210 in a flowpath established by the location and orientation of a fan 115, the ventilation openings 215, and interior members 204, which can also serve as baffles for containing and directing cooling air flow.

**Paragraph numbers used throughout are those from published application US 2004/0047745, which differ from the paragraph numbers used in the as-filed specification.*